

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action dated November 2, 2005, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration. To further the prosecution of the application, amendments have been made in the claims and each of the rejections has been carefully considered. The claims as amended patentably distinguish over the prior art of record, such that the application is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Rejections Under §102 and §103

Both of the independent claims (i.e., claims 48 and 66) have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102 as purportedly being anticipated by Besaw. Each has been amended to clearly distinguish over Besaw.

Specifically, each of independent claims 48 and 66 has been amended to require that the first and second applications that share a context execute on different computers. In this respect, independent claim 48 recites the first application as executing on the first computer and the second application as executing remotely from the first computer, and claim 66 recites the first application as executing on the first computer and the second application as executing on the second computer.

Besaw is directed to a system for sharing information in a session between applications that all are associated with the same web server. This is shown, for example, in Fig. 1, and is described throughout the Besaw specification. For example, a session is described as a set of applications that are launched from a particular instance of a web browser (col. 3, lines 13-15), with only one web session being allowed per web server for any given browser. (col. 4, lines 43-47). Besaw teaches that all applications in a session run on the same computer, i.e., the one sharing the session manager 20 and web server 16, and there is no discussion of sharing session information between two or more web servers. There is simply no teaching or suggestion in Besaw that applications that share a session execute on different computers.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that both of the independent claims (i.e., claims 48 and 66), as well as the claims that depend therefrom, patentably distinguish over Besaw and are in condition for allowance.

New claims 68-75 have been added to capture another distinction from Besaw. In particular, while Besaw teaches the initialization of a session having certain shared properties (see e.g., col. 1, lines 51 and 57), Besaw does not teach maintaining a context wherein values associated therein can change over time. Conversely, aspects of the present invention are directed to not only establishing, but maintaining a context (see e.g., the specification at page 5, line 26), so that when a user using a particular application changes at least one subject associated with a context the change is conveyed to the other applications as well via the context manager. (see e.g., page 6, lines 1-6).

Claims 68-72 and 73-74 depend, respectively, from independent claims 48 and 66, and are patentable for at least the same reasons.

New independent claim 75 is directed to a method of sharing a context between at least first and second applications, the first and second applications having first and second user interfaces, respectively, both executing on a first computer. The sharing of the context comprises initially establishing the context and maintaining it. The act of maintaining the context comprises an act of changing at least one subject from a first value to a second by passing context information about the changed at least one subject over a network between the first user interface and a context manager and between the second user interface and the context manager.

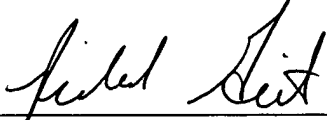
As stated above, Besaw does not teach or suggest maintaining a context by changing the value of at least one subject associated with the context and passing information about the changed subject between the user interfaces of at least two applications. Thus, claim 75 patentably distinguishes over Besaw.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is believed that the application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner does not agree, she is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below to discuss any outstanding issues relating to the allowability of the application.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,
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